

## APPENDIX.

*Note to Article 16, page 183. By the Author of that Communication.*

SOON after the publication of the first edition of this volume, a letter was transmitted to me from Professor Scemmering of Goettingen (lately elected a foreign member of the Medical and Chirurgical Society) by my friend Dr. Albers of Bremen, in which the learned professor strongly objected to the representation which I gave, in the above article, of his sentiments on a particular point connected with the physiology of the spinal marrow and nerves. Nothing could be further from my wish, than to offer the least offence to a gentleman to whom the professional world is so much obliged as to M. Scemmering, or in any way to misrepresent his meaning: but at the same time it is necessary for me to remark, that as I gave, in the Latin of his work *de Corporis Humani Fabrica*, the sentence in which he considered that I had mis-stated the opinion entertained by him, there was obviously a ready opportunity afforded to the reader of discovering and correcting any inaccuracy into which I might have fallen in my interpretation of it.

M. Scemmering having stated, that in injuries of the spinal marrow, the same side of the body is generally affected as that in which the injury may have been sustained, I observed upon this passage, that it was difficultly reconcileable to another, in which he gave it as his opinion, *‘that it is highly probable, that the fibrils of the spinal nerves, every where belong to the opposite side of the body to that in which they are dispersed.’* Medico-

Chirurgical Transactions, Vol. I. p. 190. This, he informed me, was not his meaning; but that he wished to be understood to state, '*that it is not improbable, that here and there, perhaps, a fibril of a spinal nerve belongs rather to the opposite side, than to that on which it is distributed.*'

From the information with which Professor Soemmering favoured me in his letter, it appears, that the Latin edition which we have in this country, of his very valuable work, was translated from the German language, in which it was originally published, by Professor Schoeger of Erlangen, who does not seem to have entered completely into the views of the author, in his translation of the sentence in question.

The original German passage transmitted to me by Professor Soemmering is as follows, viz. '*So ist's nicht unwahrscheinlich, dass hin und wieder vielleicht ein Fädchen eines Rückenmarksnerven mehr der entgegengesetzten, als der Seite, auf die er sich verbreitet, gehört.*'

§ 130 der alten Ausgabe, oder

§ 105 der neuen Ausgabe meiner nervenlehre.

The following is a literal translation of the above by a friend:— '*So that it is not improbable, that here and there, perhaps, a fibril of a spinal nerve belongs rather to the opposite side, than to that on which it is distributed.*'

I also give Professor Schoeger's translation of the German passage into Latin; but the whole sentence is copied, and that part of it which is intended to answer to the German quotation, put in italics. — '*Quod cerebri nervos attingit, ad oculos id quidem demonstrari nequit, veruntamen, quod spinæ medullæ fasciculi inter se implicantur, fila nervi medullæ spinæ ad latus oppositum ei, in quo sparguntur, passim pertinere, verosimile videtur.*'

Soemmering de Corporis Humani Fabrica,  
Tom. 4. p. 121.

As Professor Scemmering requested me to place his opinion relative to this point correctly before the public, I have much pleasure in giving it in his own words: and I should have been happy, if the usage relative to a second edition of a Society's work, had enabled me to make the necessary alteration in the text.

When I remarked in my paper, (p. 191,) that 'upon the whole it does not appear that Scemmering brings forward any decisive evidence of his own upon this matter,' I was induced to make this inference, not only from the apparent variance, dependent on the want of precision in the translation, between the two above-mentioned passages in this work, but from there being no references given on the particular point in question, to any observations made by himself. It is due, however, to the learned professor, to state, what he had, previous to the publication of his great work, laid a still higher claim to authority on all matters relative to the spine, than he possessed as a general anatomist, from his having published a special Treatise on Dislocations and Fractures of the Vertebral Column, in preparing which, his attention must doubtless have been directed to every important particular relative to the medulla spinalis. This work, of which the professor himself first informed me, has not, as far as I know, reached this country.

